

keeping posted

VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 1

contents

US Passport for Genocide
—Charles R. Allen, Jr. p 3

"Satan in a Bishop's Robe"
—Aron Hirt-Manheimer p 7

Champions of Justice:
Simon Wiesenthal
The Klarsfelds
—Steven Schnur p 18

dear reader

At the end of World War II, the U.S. sought to punish those Nazis and collaborators who had betrayed humanity. The Nuremberg tribunal and other war trials throughout Europe sentenced a number of top Nazis to death or imprisonment. But vast numbers of German and Austrian Nazis escaped prosecution. They returned to their homes, confident that in time their crimes would be forgiven and forgotten. History has proven them correct. After the initial war trials the enthusiasm of the allies and of occupied Germany to punish the guilty evaporated. Since 1945 many former Nazis have quietly achieved prominence in the economic and political life of West Germany and Austria.

After West Germany and Argentina, the United States ranks third in the number of fascist fugitives living within its borders. At present, thanks to the persistent efforts of a handful of individuals who for years have kept the names and crimes of these alleged Nazis in the public eye, the US Justice Department has approximately 350 cases under review.

It is an unfortunate irony that those who have actively opposed the continued presence and protection of Nazi criminals have been viewed with suspicion and contempt by many of their fellow citizens. Charles R. Allen, Jr., considered America's foremost authority on Nazi criminals, has been labelled by his detractors as a "Red agent" bent on embarrassing the United States. Dr. Charles Kremer, who for years campaigned alone against a Nazi-turned-archbishop, has a reputation in some Jewish circles of being a bothersome fanatic. Beate Klarsfeld, who exposed the former chancellor of West Germany as a wartime Nazi, is unpopular in that country for dredging up an unwelcome past. Even Simon Wiesenthal, the internationally-honored Nazi hunter, has been accused by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of using "political Mafia" methods.

These Nazi hunters, independent and often lonely individuals, entered this work for different reasons and have evolved their own styles of operation. However, they are similar in that they are *not* motivated by a lust for vengeance as commonly portrayed but by the conviction that the failure to punish the executioners of six million Jews and five million Gentiles is an invitation to future holocausts.

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about our cover

Front: Six notorious Nazis and collaborators who escaped after the war to various parts of the world.

Back: CIA intervenes in behalf of accused Nazi war criminal, Edgars Laipenieks, sixty-six-year-old resident alien living today in San Diego, CA. Laipenieks, one-time Latvian intelligence officer, has been accused of participating in the 1941-1943 murders of some 12,000 men and women in the Central Prison in Riga. In 1974, the US Immigration & Naturalization Service began to investigate war crimes charges against Laipenieks and put the admitted Nazi collaborator on its list of prospective targets for deportation. The above letter, dated July 20, 1976, from the CIA shows how the Agency intervened, successfully, to have the name of Laipenieks removed from the INS lists in 1976. Laipenieks admitted to newsmen that he had been a well-paid CIA agent during the 1960s. Document courtesy of Charles R. Allen, Jr.

keeping posted (USPS 291-380) appears monthly from October through April. Address: 238 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021. Phone: (212) 249-0100.

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single numbers of kp: 85¢ each, in bulk (12 or over), 85¢ per copy. KP Leader's Edition, single numbers, \$1.75 each.

keeping posted-leader's edition includes up to 8 pages of teaching material for the issue.

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Second-class postage rates paid at New York, N.Y.

Vol. XXVI, No. 1, October, 1980